

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1820
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USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL IBADAN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 6940

DEPT. PASS AID AND LABOR

E.O. 11652 : NA
TAGS : OEXC, EAID, NI
SUBJ : NIGERIAN MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS AND US ASSISTANCE

REFS: A) STATE 140082; B) LAGOS 6730; C) LAGOS 6192

1. SUMMARY: NIGERIAN TEAM MET WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY TEAM (ECON, AID, USIS, CONSULAR) JUNE 16 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF FMG'S CRASH PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE-LEVEL MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. NIGERIANS TOLD US THEY WISH PLACE 17,000 TECHNICAL STUDENTS ABROAD AT SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVELS FOR FY 77-78 SCHOOL YEAR. TRAINING TO BE OF TWO TO THREE YEAR DURATION AND INCLUDE ON-JOB TRAINING AND APPRENTICE PROGRAMS. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES HAS BARELY BEGUN, BUT FIRST BATCH EXPECTED AT END OF JULY. FMG WOULD LIKE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ON, AND POSSIBLY CONTRACT OUT, ENTIRE PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT OPERATION FOR UP TO 10,000 STUDENTS BY SEPTEMBER. PROGRAM TO BE FUNDED BY FMG. US TEAM RESERVED JUDGEMENT ON US CAPABILITIES FOR HANDLING SUCH NUMBERS BUT MENTIONED NUMBER OF POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM, INCLUDING IIE, AAI, AID/OIT, PRIVATE
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COMMERCIAL OR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, OR A NIGERIAN OFFICE OR AGENCY IN THE US. WE RAISED THE PROBLEMS OF ENGLISH COMPREHENSION AND THE EXTREMELY SHORT LEAD TIME. WE AGREED TO PROVIDE FIGURES TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS OF COST PER STUDENT. WE SAID WE EXPECTED TO HAVE FURTHER REACTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FMG WITHIN A WEEK, AT WHICH TIME WE THOUGHT ANOTHER MEETING OF OUR TWO WORKING GROUPS WOULD BE USEFUL. WE RAISED POSSIBILITY OF VISIT TO LAGOS BY

REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED AGENCIES FROM US. END SUMMARY

2. NIGERIAN SIDE WAS HEADED BY ALHAJI H. ALKALI, SECRETARY TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GONGOLA STATE AND CHAIRMAN OF CHIEF OF STAFF'S INTERIM COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER SHORTAGES. OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDED ALHAJI S. ILIASU, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION; F.I. ODUAH, PERMANENT SECRETARY, CABINET OFFICE; I.I. INWANG, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION; DR. P.I. AMENECHI, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY; AND TUNJI OLAGUNJU, UNDER SECRETARY, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, SUPREME HEADQUARTERS. AT CLOSE OF MEETING IT WAS DECIDED THAT OLAGUNJU WOULD BE OUR CONTACT ON POLICY QUESTIONS, AND DR. AMENECHI OUR DAY-TO-DAY CONTACT ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

3. PRIOR TO MEETING, ADDITIONAL TABLE TO THOSE REPORTED PARAS 2, 3 AND 4 REF. B HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO EMBASSY, AND DISCUSSION CENTERED ON IT. IDENTIFIED AS "PLACEMENT AND TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS AND CRAFTSMEN: REQUIREMENTS FOR 1977/78," THIS TABLE SHOWS FMG ESTIMATES OF OVERSEAS TRAINING SLOTS NEEDED THIS ACADEMIC YEAR. A TOTAL OF 16,700 TRAINING SLOTS ARE SHOWN AS "FIRST PRIORITY" IN FOLLOWING TECHNICAL COURSES: (1) CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY: BUILDING, CIVIL ENGINEERING, HIGHWAY ENGINEERING, INCLUDING DRAUGHTSMANSHIP-6,000; (2) MECHANICAL/PRODUCTION/AUTOMOBILE/ENGINEERING-1,500; (3) AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS, INCLUDING FISHERY TECHNICIANS, AGRONOMY TECHNCIANS, FEED UNCLASSIFIED

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TECHNICIANS, LEATHER TECHNICIANS, VEGETABLE TECHNICIANS, AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING/MECHANIZATION TECHNICIANS-1,500; (4) WATER RESOURCES/IRRIGATION, WASTE WATER-600; (5) ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING-1,500; (6) ELECTRONICS/RADIO/TELEVISION/TELECOMMUNICATIONS-1,500; (7) LAND SURVEYING/CARTOGRAPHY, TOWN PLANNING, INCLUDING DRAUGHTSMANSHIP-400; (8) MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING, INCLUDING METALURGY-100; (9) MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AND SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNICIANS-2,000, CONSISTING OF (I) SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNICIANS-500, (II) MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY-600, (III) RADIOGRAPHY AND XRAY-300, (IV) OPTICIANS/OPTOMETRICIANS-200, (V) DENTAL TECHNOLOGY-200, (VI) PHYSIOTHERAPY/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY -100, (VII) PHARMACY OFFICERS-100; (10) INSTRUMENT TECHNICIANS-200; (11) ACCOUNTANCY, INCLUDING BOOK-KEEPING, PURCHASES, SUPPLY AND AUDITING-1,000; (12) CHEMICAL/PETROLEUM TECHNICIANS-300, (13) TEXTILE TECHNICIANS-100. PERSONS TO BE TRAINED WERE DIVIDED IN TWO CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO DESIRED EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVMENTS (BASED ON BRITISH SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRADING). CATEGORY A COVERS HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND)/HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (HNC); ORDINARY NATIONAL DIPLOMA (OND)/ORDINARY TECHNICAL DIPLOMA (OTD) AND EQUIVALENT TECHNICIANS. CATEGORY B COVERS "CITY AND GUILDS"

(CERTIFICATES)/CRAFTSMEN AND ARTISANS. NO QUANTITIES HAVE YET BEEN ASSIGNED TO THESE CATEGORIES.

4. ALKALI IDENTIFIED QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE TWO CATEGORIES OF CANDIDATES AS FOLLOWS:

CATEGORY A- "TECHNICIANS"-WOULD REQUIRE EITHER 1) SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, I.E., FIVE YEARS POST-PRIMARY, 2) TEACHERS GRADE II CERTIFICATE (ALSO FIVE YEARS POST-PRIMARY), OR 3) CITY AND GUILDS (CERTIFICATE). IN CASE OF QUALIFICATIONS 2 AND 3, AT LEAST THREE YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED. CATEGORY B-"CRAFTSMEN AND ARTISANS"-WOULD REQUIRE THREE YEARS SECONDARY EDUCATION OR THREE YEARS OF APPRENTICESHIP AFTER FULL PRIMARY
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EDUCATION, OR A PASS ON TRADE TEST ORGANIZED BY TECHNICAL MINISTRIES AND ADMINISTERED BY MINISTRY OF LABOR.

5. CHAIRMAN ALKALI EMPHASIZED THAT THE TRAINING REQUIRED WAS 2-3 YEAR TECHNICAL COURSES OF PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR THE "SUB-PREFESSIONALS." HE SAID THAT FMG "TENTATIVELY"HOPED US COULD PROVIDE AS MANY AS 10,000 OF THESE TRAINING SLOTS. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE US GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK FOR ALL US EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, BUT HE RECALLED THAT AID HAD IN THE PAST PERFORMED EFFECTIVELY AS A SINGLE AGENCYFOR PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS IN TRAINING PROGRAMS. HE HOPED THAT SOMETHING SIMILAR COULD BE WORKED OUT ON A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT BASIS AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME WITH FMG FUNDS.

6. ALKALI DESCRIBED SLECTION PROCESS FOR CANDIDATES FOR PROGRAM. SLECTION COMMITTEES IN EACH OF NINETEEN STATES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING AT LEAST A THOUSAND CANDIDATES EACH FOR REVIEW BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN LAGOS. NITIONAL COMMITTEE WILL SOON ADVERTISE IN THE NIGERIAN PRESS FOR APPLICANTS WITH SPECIFIED QUALIFICATIONS. ALKALI HOPES THAT BY THE END OF JULY, STATE COMMITTEES CAN BEGIN FORWARDING QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR REVIEW BY NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

7. ALKALI ASKED WHICH CATEGORIES US COULD HANDLE, AND WHAT APPROXIMATE COSTS WOULD BE PER STUDENT. IN RESPONSE, EMBASSY TEAM MADE SEVERAL POINTS FOR NIGERIAN CONSIDERATION:

A) THERE IS GREAT VARIETY OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS WHICH MIGHT ASSIST WITH NIGERIAN MANPOWER PROJECT, INCLUDING LABOR UNIONS, COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES, FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTES, VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, PRIVATE TRAINING COMPANIES AND LOCAL, STATE, AND US GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

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B) NIGERIANS SHOULD CONSIDER POSSIBLE UTILITY OF AN AGENCY OF THEIR OWN TO PLACE, MONITOR, COUNSEL, AND SUPPORT NIGERIAN STUDENTS. IT SEEMED TO US THAT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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TO BE CONTINUALLY INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS. AMONG OTHER OPTIONS DISCUSSED FOR OVERALL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY WERE IIE, AAI, AID/OIT, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, AND PRIVATE COMMERCIAL FIRMS.

C) INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (IIE) IS ALREADY SUBMITTING ABID TO THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FMEDR) ON A CONTRACT WHICH WOULD GIVE IIE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PLACING AND SUPPORT OF 500 NIGERIAN SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS IN PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL TRAINING PROGRAMS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. THIS CONTRACT COULD BE A MODEL FOR THE LARGER, MORE TECHNICAL OR ARTISANAL PROGRAM UNDER CONSIDERATION.

D) SEPTEMBER FAST APPROACHES, ALTHOUGH SOME TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS MIGHT ADMIT TRAINEES YEAR ROUND. (ALKALI SAID THAT IF SEPTEMBER ADMISSIONS WERE NOT POSSIBLE IN SOME CASES, STUDENTS COULD WAIT UNTIL NEXT TERM BEGINS.)

E) SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM COULD BE POOR ENGLISH COMPREHENSION ON THE

PART OF SOME CANDIDATES SINCE WE FIND EVEN THOSE APPLYING TO
ENTER AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL SOMETIMES DEFICIENT. PROGRAM OF
REMIDIAL ENGLISH MIGHT AMELIORATE THIS PROBLEM.
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8. AT CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, AMBASSADOR UNDERTOOK TO
TRANSMIT THE NIGERIAN REQUEST TO WASHINGTON AND SEEK ADVICE AND
INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO RESPOND. HE SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH
WITH ALKALI WITHIN A WEEK TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS, ONE OF WHICH
MIGHT BE A MEETING THAT WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF
INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS FROM US.

9. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: FMG WANTS SOME AMERICAN AGENCY OR
ORGANIZATION, PREFERABLY THE USG, TO PICK UP THE JOB OF
IDENTIFYING, FILLING AND SUPPORTING SOME 10,000 TECHNICAL
TRAINING SLOTS IN THE US FOR YOUNG NIGERIANS IN THIRTEEN
FIDLS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER. FMG'S INTERIM COMMITTEE AND
AGENDA THEY HAVE DEVELOPED TO DATE REPRESENTS SERIOUS AND
IMPRESSIVE START ON ATTACKING ONE OF NIGERIA'S MAJOR
DEVELOPMENTAL CONSTRAINTS, BUT LITTLE INDICATION SO FAR THAT
SUFFICIENT ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO COMPLETIES OF MANAGING
THE CARE AND FEEDING OF THE STUDENT ONCE HE LEAVES HOME. IN
VIEW FACT THAT FMG'S ADVERTISEMENTS OF PROGRAM ONLY NOW BEING DRAWN
UP, AND GIVEN OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL AND COMMUNICATIONS INADEQUACIES
IN LOCAL ENVIRONMENT WITH WHICH THIS CRASH PROGRAM MUST COPE,
WE DOUBT THERE WILL BE 17,000 IDENTIFIED CANDIDATES FOR
OVERALL PROGRAM BY THIS FALL, AND QUITE POSSIBLE THAT TRANCHE
TENTATIVELY ALLOCATED FOR US (10,000) WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERABLY
SMALLER THAN FIRST ESTIMATE. CANDIDATES WILL CONSIST OF
HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS AT BEST AND WILL INCLUDE SOME WITH
SUBSTANTIALLY LESS EDUCATION BUT WITH MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING. QUALIFICATIONS BOUND TO BE MIXED AND
DIFFICULT TO ASSESS, AND ENGLISH COMPREHENSION LIKELY TO
PRESENT PROBLEMS. IN SPITE OF COMPLEXITIES AND OBVIOUS
PROBLEMS LYING AHEAD, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE FMG'S INTEREST IN
US CONTRIBUTION TO NIGERIAN MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAM DESERVES
OUR MOST SERIOUS EFFORTS TO COLLABORATE. US INTERESTS, BOTH SHORT
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AND LONG TERM, WILL BENEFIT.

10. NOTE: PLEASE INCLUDE USIA IN INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS
ON THIS SUBJECT SINCE USIS MEMBERS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN MISSION
EFFORT AT THIS END.
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Message Attributes

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